Execution of Kudankulam Nuclear Energy Project

2583. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the stage of execution of the Kudankulam Nuclear Energy Project under the Russian aid;

(b) the ratio of the amount spent till now on this project by the Russian and Indian Governments;

(c) whether there is any opposition from the local people with regard to the land acquisition and compensation and fear about the disposal of the nuclear waste; and

(d) if so, what steps government propose to take on their fear?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) As a first step for the implementation of the project, the land acquisition for the project and the site investigations have been completed. The Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) prepared by Russian side is under advanced stage of review by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The development of first phase of infrastructure at site, construction of township and the desalination plant for water supply etc. have been undertaken. The Russian side has submitted the Techno-commercial Offer (TCO) for the implementation of the project. Discussions and negotiations on the TCO have been completed. A proposal to get financial sanction and approval of the Government of India is under process.

(b) As of March 2001, out of the total expenditure of Rs. 254.98 crore, incurred for this project, about 68% has been provided by the Government of Russian Federation out of the State Credit. Balance 32% has been spent by NPCIL from Government Equity/Loan.

(c) and (d) The land acquired for Kudankulam project is non- agricultural barren land with no inhabitants and therefore there has been no displacement of the local people in the process of land acquisition. The land was acquired by Government of Tamil Nadu for the Department of Atomic Energy/Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and title of the acquired land has been passed on to NPCIL.

DAE/NPCIL has been conducting various public awareness programmes through lectures, seminars, conferences, exhibitions, study tours to the operating nuclear plants etc. to educate and inform the local public about the safety of the Kudankulam project and the response from the local public is supportive for the project.

Contaminated water in the water tanks of Super Bazar

2584. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 70 employees of Super Bazar run by the Central Government were affected by jaundice after drinking contaminated water from its water tanks;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the NDMC no complaint has been received from the resident of Shankar Market and Minto Road and it may therefor be due to poor maintenance of internal supply system; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure supply of clean drinking water in Super Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Super Bazar, around 40 employees suffered from jaundice in March/April, 2001. The N.D.M.C. have reported that there was no complaint of contaminated water from the nearby areas of Shankar Market and Minto Road;

(c) Storage tanks of Super Bazar are being cleaned as per guidelines of the N.D.M.C. The quality of water is being tested on day-to-day basis.

Rejection of Indian wheat by Iraq

2585. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian wheat is sold in the world market at prices of $103.00 to $107.00 per tonnes whereas we have contracted to supply wheat to Iraq at $160.00 per tonne;

(b) whether Iraqi Grain Board has rejected two Indian wheat consignments insisting that it should be free of inorganic matter whereas the contract stipulates that maximum limit of foreign matter should not exceed 2 per cent;

(c) whether this is a ploy by Iraqi Grain Board to renegotiate the prices with India; and

(d) whether India is likely to raise the issue with the International Trade Arbitration bodies like Gafta?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIKAM CHAUHAN): (a) FCI was authorised to issue wheat for the purpose of export to Iraq @ Rs. 4340/- per MT. Export was undertaken by PSUs and private parties at different rates, as per their contracts with the buyers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal to renegotiate the prices.

(d) No, Sir.